

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle boarding environment controlling system constituted by a boarding environment controlling apparatus mounted on a vehicle and that communicates with an outside communication device, said boarding environment controlling system comprising:

personal authentication detecting means that detects personal authentication;

communication means for communicating with said boarding environment controlling apparatus;

a communication device equipped with said personal authentication detecting means and said communication means;

personal authentication processing means mounted on said communication device for performing a personal authentication process based on personal authentication information detected by said personal authentication detecting means mounted on said communication device;

transmission means for transmitting to the boarding environment controlling apparatus, the personal authentication information and a personal ID processed by the personal authentication processing means;

registration storing means which, in association with the personal authentication information and the personal ID of each of a plurality of persons to be authenticated in said personal authenticating process, stores registrations of setting status

information denoting a predetermined boarding environment of said vehicle;

attestation means for attesting to a match between the personal authentication information and personal ID transmitted by the transmission means and the personal authentication information and the personal ID stored in the registration storing means;

attestation transmission means for transmitting to the communication means an attestation result from the attestation means;

setting control instruction transmission means for transmitting setting control instructions to the boarding environment controller from the communication means based on the attestation result transmitted by the attestation transmission means;

~~door lock controlling means included in said boarding environment controlling apparatus for unlocking doors of said vehicle when any one of said persons is authenticated in said personal authentication process; and~~

setting status controlling means for changing the status of settings to a registered boarding environment in a vehicle based on the setting status information and corresponding setting control instructions transmitted by the setting control instruction transmission means~~included in said boarding environment controlling apparatus and which, if any one of said~~

~~persons is authenticated in said personal authentication processing means, changes a boarding environment setting status of said vehicle in accordance with the setting status information associated with the authenticated person from among the setting status information stored in said registration storing means.~~

Claim 2. (canceled)

Claim 3. (currently amended) The vehicle boarding environment controlling system ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 21, wherein said setting status controlling means changes, as said boarding environment setting status, a setting status of a mechanism related to a body of said vehicle.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The vehicle boarding environment controlling system ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 3, wherein said mechanism related to the body of said vehicle is at least one of an exterior mirror moving mechanism, an interior mirror moving mechanism, and a driver seat position moving mechanism.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The vehicle boarding environment controlling system ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 21, wherein said setting status controlling means changes, as said

boarding environment setting status, a setting item regarding electronic equipment mounted on said vehicle and which has predetermined functions.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A vehicle boarding environment controlling method for use with a boarding environment controlling system constituted by a communication device and by a boarding environment controlling apparatus mounted on a vehicle and which communicates with said communication device, said boarding environment controlling method comprising the steps of:

detecting authentication through said communication device;
performing a personal authentication process based on results obtained in said step of detecting;

transmitting to the boarding environment controlling apparatus, the personal authentication information and a personal ID processed by the personal authentication processing means;

communicating with the communication device that performs said personal authentication process;

storing, into a predetermined storage area, registrations of setting status information denoting a predetermined boarding environment of said vehicle in association with the personal authentication information and the personal ID of each of a

plurality of persons to be authenticated in said personal authentication process;

attesting to a match between the personal authentication information and personal ID transmitted in the transmission step and the personal authentication information and the personal ID stored in the storing step;

transmitting to the communication means an attestation result from the attestation means;

transmitting setting control instructions to the boarding environment controller from the communication means based on the attestation result transmitted in the attestation transmission step; and

changing the status of settings to a registered boarding environment in a vehicle based on the setting status information associated with the authenticated person and corresponding setting control instructions~~unlocking doors of said vehicle through said boarding environment controlling apparatus when any one of said persons is authenticated in said personal authentication process; and~~

~~when any one of said persons is authenticated in said personal authentication process, then changing, through said boarding environment controlling apparatus, the boarding environment setting status of said vehicle in accordance with the setting status information associated with the authenticated~~

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~~person from among the setting status information stored in the
storage areas.~~